GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3048
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2008
DEMAND AND SUPPLY OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS IN THE TRIBAL AREAS
Bhagora Shri Mahavir

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the demand and supply of petroleum products in the tribal areas of the country;

(b) whether the Government has prepared any action plan for supply of the petroleum products in the said areas;

(c) if so, whether Government proposes to issue new dealerships for the supply of the petroleum products in these areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government are aware of the smuggling and adulteration of petroleum products in the said areas; and

(f) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) & (b): Consumption data of petroleum products for tribal areas is not being maintained separately. However, demand of petrol and diesel of customers is met through Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) Retail Outlets (ROs) across the country including tribal areas. The estimated demand for Petrol, Diesel and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) in the country for the period April − October, 2008 is as under: -

Figures in Million Metric Tonnes (MMT)

Petroleum Products	Quantity
Petrol	6.44
Diesel	29.26
LPG	6.90

(c) & (d): OMCs have reported that setting up of new Retail Outlets (ROs) including those in rural areas is a continuous process and they set up ROs at locations having sufficient potential and found to be economically viable based on survey and feasibility studies. This process involves various steps like advertisement, interviews/selection of dealers, field verification of credentials, issue of Letter of Indent (LOI) procurement of land, obtaining necessary statutory approvals, construction etc.

(e) & (f): Possibility of adulteration of petrol/diesel by some unscrupulous elements cannot be ruled out due to huge price difference between petrol/diesel and various adulterants available in the market and the easy miscibility of these products with petrol/diesel.

Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) undertake regular and surprise inspections of Retail Outlets and also take action under Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) and Dealership Agreements against those indulging in adulteration and malpractices. MDG provide for termination of dealership in the first instance itself for serious malpractices like adulteration, tampering of seals, and unauthorized fittings/gears in dispensing units.

In order to check adulteration, the Government has taken a number of additional initiatives viz., Automation of Retail Outlets, Third party certification of Retail Outlets, Monitoring of movement of tank trucks through Global Positioning System (GPS), Jan Kerosene Pariyojna(JKP), Use of Marker in Kerosene, Revision of MDG etc.